

# LIEBE GROUP NEWS

July 2021

Volume 24

Issue 5



## What's Inside



*Liebe's Strategic Plan review underway*



*Digging deep into soil moisture probe technology*



*2021 Photo Competition: Behind the Scenes of Farming*



*Post Seeding Field Walk on next Wednesday!*



*The Liebe Group mission is to facilitate grower prioritised research, development and extension to support our members to be profitable and sustainable.*

## From the Cover

Attendees of the soil moisture probe workshop at Brad McIlroy's property at Pithara.

### DIAMOND PARTNERS



Rabobank



## MEMBER NEWS

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KATRINA VENTICINQUE

**WHAT** a wet and wild start to July, with almost 60mm of rainfall in Dalwallinu over the past two weeks! It has been a welcome sight to have our crops and trials charging forward with the promise of a positive season ahead.

Our first field walk out at the Main Trial Site is scheduled for next Wednesday 21st, so we encourage all our members and partners to come along to view the trials and network throughout the afternoon, with the sundowner to be held at the AFGRI sheds from 5pm. More details on the Post Seeding Field Walk can be found on page 12, including the mini-field walk visiting three interesting trials between Dalwallinu and Pithara just prior to the main event starting.

Other workshops coming up throughout July and August include a Bitesize Learning session on business structures, a HR & Farm Safety Masterclass, a Herbicide Resistance Testing workshop and both tiny tots and general first aid courses. More information can be found in the events section from page 12.

The Liebe team has been working behind the scenes on our NLP-funded soil moisture probe and weather station network. Participants joined together in late July alongside industry experts to discuss what benefits having real-time soil water data can have for in-season farming decisions. Check out the debrief on page 6, and keep your eyes open for more information on the online dashboard that will be accessible in the coming weeks.

Many of our members would have seen (or heard from) the Liebe team recently, as we coordinate all of the in-season monitoring and measurement activities for our projects. With 14 active projects equating to over 50 individual sites spread across the Liebe Region, our small team is working hard to ensure the research priorities of our members are being met.

We are always open to feedback and further input, especially as we work towards developing a new strategic plan for the next 5 years.

All the best for the season ahead, and I look forward to catching up with you all at the upcoming Liebe Group events!



### GOLD PARTNERS



### SILVER PARTNERS

Syngenta	Pacer Legal	Adama Australia	GrainGrowers
Nutrien Ag Solutions	Refuel Australia	Nufarm	Intergrain
FMC	Australian Grain Technologies	Boekemans Machinery Dalwallinu	McIntosh & Son

A review of the current strategic plan is currently underway within the Liebe Group. To kick this process off, members were invited to participate in several 'Crossroads Workshops' in mid-June in Dalwallinu, Buntine and Kalannie.

This review process is the 6th planning exercise undertaken by the group since its inception and is aimed at assisting the group to achieve its vision of vibrancy and innovation for rural prosperity.

Assisted by facilitator Caroline Robinson from 150Square, members were given the opportunity to consider what Liebe Group does well and what can be improved. Breaking into smaller discussion groups, business priorities under the themes of agronomy, farming systems and equipment and farm business guided further examination into priorities of the group moving forward. Key themes around technology, business diversity and industry funding were highlighted, with further priorities to be investigated.

Partners and industry have also been approached to provide external feedback on the performance and priorities of the group. The Liebe Group Management Committee is now consolidating all of this information to launch the new Strategic Plan in September.

The Liebe Group would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed so far, and extend the opportunity for any additional feedback and guidance from members. Please contact Katrina (0400 941 412 or eo@liebegrup.org.au) if you would like to have a chat.



Caroline Robinson facilitating conversation with Liebe Group members at Dalwallinu and Buntine.

## LIEBE'S STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW UNDERWAY



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2021



- Engaged membership of over 250 people representing 87 farm businesses and over 1,000,000ha
- Valued partnerships developed and maintained with 24 partner organisations



- Celebrated 20 years of Liebe Group in 2017
- Construction and opening of the Liebe Group Agricultural Research & Education Facility in August 2018



- Extended over 178 communications to members
- Innovative information delivery to keep members up to date including trying different forums (virtual field walks, AgChats workshops, pop-up field walks, bus tours) and different platforms (videos, podcasts, social media)



- Successful implementation of all major events (Crop Updates, Women's Field Day, Post Seeding Field Walk and Spring Field Day)
- Hosted over 40 AgChats, Bitesize Learning workshops and other general Liebe Group workshops
- Event attendance increasing
- Hosted grower tour to Esperance and a regional women's bus tour



- Held 107 committee meetings
- Well supported committees driving the group forward including the Management Committee, R&D Committee and Women's Committee



- Maintained strong financial governance under guidance of the dedicated Finance Committee
- Total income from 2017-2021 of \$1.9mil (major projects), \$200K (memberships), \$450K (partnerships) and \$760K (sundry income streams)



- Held a Main Trial Site each year (West Buntine, Kalannie, Watheroo, Latham and Dalwallinu) even through droughts and pandemics!
- Showcased 97 timely and relevant trials and demonstrations, as prioritised by the R&D Committee



- Delivered numerous projects and demonstrations across the region including Legume Demonstrations, Moisture Probe and Weather Station Network, Gen Y Paddock Challenge, Lupin Establishment and Practice for Profit



- Upheld values of member driven, innovation, inclusivity, progressive, apolitical, collaborative, professional, independent, empowering, fun and respect



- Consistent skilled staff, providing the opportunity for professional development and capacity building
- Supporting regional jobs in the broad acre agricultural industry

## DIGGING DEEP INTO SOIL MOISTURE PROBE TECHNOLOGY

**WHAT** a start to the season, 272mm (YTD) rain at the start of July. Have you ever wondered how much water is being stored in your soil profile? Are you interested to see where crops are accessing that water from in the profile?

Participants in the Liebe Group's Soil Moisture Probe and Weather Station Network gathered on the 24th June to kick start their journey towards getting the most out the advanced equipment that was recently installed on their properties.

With an early morning start out at Brad McIlroy's weather station in Pithara, the group were given an overview of the various sensors and moving parts that enable the data to be collected and transmitted in real-time. Wildeye monitoring representative Kieran Coupe was on hand to provide tips on general maintenance to safeguard the longevity of the equipment.

The main message of 'keep your eye out and don't hit the station!' was emphasised, with a maximum amelioration depth of 20cm recommended to ensure the probe and cabling is safe from damage.



Viewing the weather station installed on Brad McIlroy's property in Pithara with Kieran Coupe, WildEye.

Back at the Liebe Group office, the workshop continued with a brief presentation from Kieran outlining how the probes work and what data is produced through the online dashboard. Currently in development, the website link will be extended out in the next month for public access.

DPIRD senior development officer Caroline Peek, who is heavily involved in the DPIRD state-wide soil probe network, provided great insight into understanding what the information being exported from the sensors means in relation to soil water and water use efficiencies of crops.

This 'Seeing into Soils' project, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants Program over a two season period, will act as a 'pilot' to test soil moisture probe technology in our region and provide an extension platform to engage growers to increase their awareness and knowledge about how this technology could add value to their businesses.

By evaluating this real-time data, farmers can understand the implications of management decisions and gain confidence for future decisions. It can help evaluate resource management practices such as implementing strategic fallow on heavy country, deep ripping, amelioration of non-wetting soils and applying lime. By expanding the understanding and adoption of these technologies within the region, growers will be able to better manage their water-use efficiency for improved productivity, profitability and long-term environmental sustainability.

For more information on this project please contact Katrina or Bec through the Liebe Group Office.



Kieran Coupe providing general maintenance tips to safeguard longevity of equipment.



Kieran outlining what data will be processed through the online dashboard.

## FROM LECTURES TO LIEBE LAB!

Jayde Northover  
Student  
Curtin University

OVER the mid semester university break I had the opportunity to gain practical work experience with the Liebe Group. Growing up on a farm west of Dalwallinu, the Liebe Group is an organisation that has always been deeply connected and active within the community to encourage growers to be innovative with practical research and development support relevant to the region.

The ongoing research projects of Liebe validated the university laboratory sessions undertaken through my degree in Agribusiness at Curtin University. The practical experience enabled a deeper understanding to form surrounding information I have learnt from textbooks and classes in optimising growing environments. The research and development projects enabled an insight into regional production challenges of soil fertility, new pests, and herbicide resistance. The dedication of growers to research and development through experimental trials is tribute to the future of agriculture.



Jayde placing one of the DPIRD Diamondback Moth traps.

My week began with travelling north of Wubin to two different growers trial sites involved in the MLA producer demonstration sites to conduct plant counts around the pasture paddocks.

Traveling around the area continued, to place moth traps for diamondback moths, fall armyworm and budworm. This is a GRDC funded project being undertaken with DPIRD in canola crops, with data collected each fortnight, which will indicate the extent of these pest threats, new and existing.

I also attended a soil probe workshop out in paddock and in office with discussion on the structure of the soil probe and connected weather station, with reference to the data output.

Kieran Coupe, Managing Director of Wildeye, who have supplied and serviced the soil probe and weather station, explained the app and graphs used to communicate the raw data. This was followed up by Caroline Peek, Senior Research Scientist from DPIRD who provided a session on soil parameters and results produced by the soil probe, which enables growers to interpret the results.

Undertaking plant counts for the wind erosion and imidazolinone herbicide residues trials also extended prior knowledge from pot trials at university to a grower scale, which introduced weeds that aren't a factor in the laboratories.

I was also able to attend several meetings during the week discussing the current and future Liebe Group plans, partaking in general administrative roles between events.

An AgChats event was held on 22nd of June with three speakers, Jackie Bucat a Research Scientist at DPIRD, Sales Support Agronomist Angus McAlpine from CSBP and Elders local Agronomist Tristan Clarke. They discussed the nutrient requirements of canola and emerging pests of particular concern this year, tied with agronomic advice about germination and phenotype performance.

Many thanks to Katrina, Judy, Lisa-May and Danielle for providing the range of opportunities throughout a remarkably busy week. It has been a privilege to see the passionate and knowledgeable team behind Liebe and all the growers involved working towards an innovative, inclusive future of production in the agricultural industry. I am proud to be connected to a region that is committed to the continued research and development improving the quality and outputs of production.



Conducting plant counts at the Main Trial Site.



Participating in a soil moisture probe field walk and workshop.



LOOKING INTO LONG COLEOPTILE WHEAT AT AGCHATS

ON Thursday the 8th of July, the Liebe Group hosted an AgChats field walk session “Sowing Deep with Long Coleoptile Wheat” at Dylan Hirsch’s property in Latham. The AgChats events are aimed at increasing the capacity of farmers through small targeted workshops on seasonally specific topics.

The field walk started with local grower Dylan Hirsch sharing his experiences attempting to sow conventional varieties deep in marginal years. Discussion around the capacity of seeding equipment to reliably achieve a deep sowing depth brought to light several issues, including the potentially limited opportunity for under seed cultivation and fertiliser seed separation.

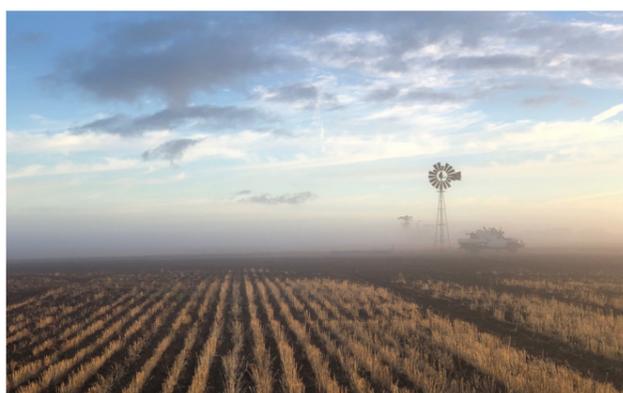
Chris Wilkens of SLR continued the discussion, sharing his research from GRDC-funded project “Farming Systems & Agronomic Changes For Integration of Long Coleoptile Wheat in the West Region”, which is looking into how long coleoptile wheat may fit into farming systems. The trial compares a number of commercial, upcoming and pre-breeding lines when sown at either a conventional or deep (100mm) depth.

The trials have shown strong performance from several of the upcoming lines, and interesting potential from the pre-breeding lines in comparison to current commercial varieties. It has also highlighted some of the potential issues with deep sowing including soil temperature affecting seedling vigour, difficulties with seed depth control, and increased susceptibility to soil-borne diseases. These issues and potential methods to overcome them will be explored in more detail through the remainder of the season, and the second year of the project.

For more information about the trial and its outcomes contact Liebe Group or keep an eye out for the 2021/22 R&D book that will include a comprehensive trial report.



Long coleoptile wheat varieties on display at Latham.



Winning images from the 2020 photo competition (from top: Tash Mills, Helen Heinrich, Peter Waterhouse)

LIEBE GROUP 2021 PHOTO COMPETITION

BEHIND THE SCENES OF FARMING

3 X LUCKY WINNERS EACH RECEIVE A \$150 REFUEL AUSTRALIA FUEL CARD!

THE RULES

- Photos are to be submitted via [email](mailto:admin@liebegrup.org.au) admin@liebegrup.org.au
- 5 photos may be entered into the competition per person but more can be shared via Facebook
- Judging will be completed by 3 members of the Liebe Group Management Committee
- Entry into the competition includes permission for the Liebe Group to use images in future publications and media
- Mobile phone images are welcome
- Winner will be announced at Spring Field Day, Thursday 9th September 2021

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



# POST SEEDING FIELD WALK

## WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2021



**3:30PM - 5:30PM | PULLED PORK & PORT NIGHT TO FOLLOW**  
**HYDE PROPERTY, DALWALLINU WEST ROAD, DALWALLINU**

### SITE LOCATION



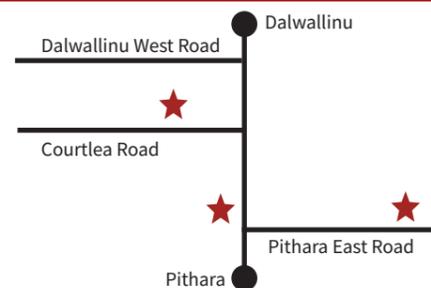
### TRIALS

7	Opportunity cost of herbicide residue effects across crop types (Imi Trial)	Liebe Group
8	Impacts of deep sowing long coleoptile wheat	AGT
9	Increasing the profitability of the double break rotation in the MRZ or WA Wheatbelt through incorporation of an early sown high value pulse	West Midlands Group
11	Pre-Emergent and EPE Control of Annual Ryegrass in Wheat	Bayer
12	Knockdown control and crop safety matrix	Elders & Adama
14	Capturing early sowing opportunities with long season wheat varieties and the impact of nitrogen rates and placement	CSBP
15	Investigation into the efficacy and Host Crop Safety of Edge Unify when applied PSPE and Post Emergent in Canola	Imtrade
17	Pre-emergent soil throw effects when sown interrow, edge row and on row	Elders

\*\* No toilet facilities

### BONUS MINI FIELD WALK | 12:50 - 2:45PM

Get your fellow farmers together to visit three satellite trials between Dalwallinu and Pithara! Looking at pre-emergent ryegrass control in wheat, broadleaf weeds in chickpeas, and tine vs disc seeders, industry experts from Nufarm, DPIRD and AFGRI will be on hand to go through the trial sites before the main Post Seeding Field Walk event starts at 3:30pm. Meet at Pithara East Road site (1.5km off Great Northern Highway).



### QUERIES

For more information, contact the Liebe Group office  
 P: 08 9661 1907  
 E: admin@liebegroup.org.au

### TICKETS

Members Free  
 Non-members \$20  
 Industry \$20

### REGISTRATIONS

<https://tinyurl.com/2021PSFW>

**ALL WELCOME**

### DIAMOND PARTNERS



### EVENT PARTNER



# POST SEEDING FIELD WALK 2021 AGENDA

Time	AGENDA																																				
12:50pm	Meet at Site 21																																				
12:50 - 1:20pm	Site 21: Pre-em Ryegrass Control in Wheat   Rex Cao, Nufarm																																				
1:20 - 1:30pm	Travel to Site 20																																				
1:30 - 2pm	Site 20: Broadleaf Weeds in Chickpeas   Harmohinder Dhammu, DPIRD																																				
2 - 2:15pm	Travel to Site 19																																				
2:15 - 2:45pm	Site 19: Tine vs Disc Seeder   Dan Jolly, AFGRI																																				
2:45 - 3pm	Travel to Main Trial Site																																				
3 - 3:20pm	Meet at Main Trial Site and afternoon tea																																				
3:20 - 3:30pm	Walk to first site for 3:30pm start																																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>GROUP 1</th> <th>GROUP 2</th> <th>GROUP 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3:30 - 3:40pm</td> <td>Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> <td>Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer</td> <td>Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3:40 - 3:50pm</td> <td>Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT</td> <td>Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama</td> <td>Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3:50 - 4pm</td> <td>Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> <td>Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP</td> <td>Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 - 4:10pm</td> <td>Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer</td> <td>Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade</td> <td>Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:10 - 4:20pm</td> <td>Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama</td> <td>Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders</td> <td>Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:20 - 4:30pm</td> <td>Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP</td> <td>Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT</td> <td>Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:30 - 4:40pm</td> <td>Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade</td> <td>Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> <td>Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:40 - 4:50pm</td> <td>Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders</td> <td>Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group</td> <td>Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	3:30 - 3:40pm	Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group	Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer	Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP	3:40 - 3:50pm	Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT	Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama	Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade	3:50 - 4pm	Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group	Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP	Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders	4 - 4:10pm	Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer	Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade	Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group	4:10 - 4:20pm	Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama	Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders	Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT	4:20 - 4:30pm	Site 14 Long Season Wheat Angus McAlpine, CSBP	Site 8 Long Coleoptile Wheat Alana Hartley, AGT	Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group	4:30 - 4:40pm	Site 15 Crop Safety of Edge Nathan Moyes, Imtrade	Site 9 Double Break Legumes Judith Storer, Liebe Group	Site 11 Annual Ryegrass Control in Wheat Matt Willis, Bayer	4:40 - 4:50pm	Site 17 Row Placement Effects on Herbicide Tristan Clarke, Elders	Site 7 Herbicide Residue Effects Judith Storer, Liebe Group	Site 12 Crop Safety Matrix Jason Stokes, Adama
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4:50 - 5pm	Travel to AFGRI Sheds for Sundowner																																				
5 - 5:30pm	R&D Brainstorming Session																																				
5:30pm onwards	Pulled Pork & Port Night																																				



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT BUSINESS STRUCTURE WHAT THEY MEAN FOR YOUR FARM BUSINESS

**THURSDAY 29TH JULY**  
**9 - 10:30AM AT THE LIEBE GROUP OFFICE**

Join Kate Keamy and RSM for a deeper look into business structures and what they mean for your business.

Following on from Women's Field Day, this short workshop will include discussion around:

- What are the different structures
- How to determine which is the best fit for your farm business
- How to make the change

### QUERIES AND REGISTRATIONS

For more information, contact the Liebe Group office on 9661 1907 or email [admin@liebegroup.org.au](mailto:admin@liebegroup.org.au)



Sole Trader

Partnership

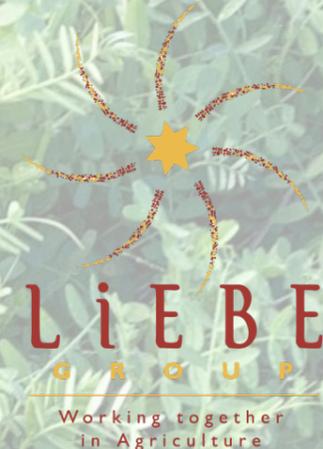
Company

Trust

LIEBE GROUP PRESENTS

# ON-FARM ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

PRACTICAL & INTERACTIVE FIELD WALK



## GET HANDS ON WITH YOUR LIVESTOCK'S HEALTH!

Join local vet Kirsten Tunstill, and DPIRD officers Rod Thompson, Jess Bowers and Katherine Davies for a hands-on, in-field workshop at Rob Nankivell's property in Buntine. The afternoon will be exploring best practice on-farm animal health management.

Topics for discussion include:

- Improved pastures with Phil Barrett-Lennard
- On property animal health management
- State-controlled disease management
- Hands-on condition scoring

**ALL WELCOME**

**FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**12 - 5:30PM**

**1244 WILDER ROAD**  
**BUNTINE**

**LIGHT LUNCH & SUNDOWNER**

## REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED

Ph: 9661 1907

E: [admin@liebegroup.org.au](mailto:admin@liebegroup.org.au)

W: <https://tinyurl.com/MLA0721>

## SUPPORTED BY



# LIEBE GROUP AND PROCESSWORX PRESENT FARMING HR & SAFETY MASTERCLASS



## ENSURE YOUR FARM BUSINESS IS COMPLIANT!

Join ProcessWorx Managing Director Danielle McNamee for a 1.5 day workshop focusing on farm human resources, industrial relations and farm safety.

### Monday 2nd August will include:

- Staff management and performance
- Employee contracts
- How to complete BOOT for employees
- Individual Flexibility Arrangements

### Tuesday 3rd August will include:

- How to create and complete a Risk Register
- Updates on Industrial Manslaughter Legislation and what it means for your business

**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> &  
TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>  
AUGUST**

**LIEBE GROUP  
OFFICE**

**LIMITED SPACES!**

## TICKETS | ATTEND ONE OR BOTH DAYS!

Day 1 (Full Day)

Members: \$200

Non-Members: \$250

Day 2 (Half Day)

Members: \$100

Non-Members: \$150

**DISCOUNT OF \$20 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT  
PERSON IN THE FARM BUSINESS!**

## REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED

Ph: 9661 1907

E: [admin@liebegroup.org.au](mailto:admin@liebegroup.org.au)

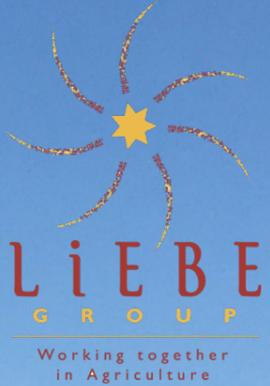
W: <https://tinyurl.com/HRMaster>

## SUPPORTED BY



LIEBE GROUP PRESENTS

# HERBICIDE RESISTANCE TESTING WORKSHOP



## MORE CROP, LESS WEEDS!

AHRI's Roberto Busi alongside expert Peter Newman will be presenting the results from local herbicide resistance testing conducted late 2020 on radish, brome grass and ryegrass.

Rick Llewellyn and Fiona Dempster will also be on hand to discuss results on the resistance perception surveys conducted with GRDC investment.

This interactive workshop aims to provide better understanding of herbicide resistance testing on key weed populations in the Liebe Group region.

**THURSDAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**10AM TO 1PM**

**LIEBE GROUP  
OFFICE**

**ALL WELCOME!**

## REGISTER TODAY!

Ph: 9661 1907

E: [admin@liebegroup.org.au](mailto:admin@liebegroup.org.au)





## Tiny Tots First Aid course

Chocking, anaphylaxis, asthma...would you know how to respond?

Be Prepared for an infant or toddler first aid emergency with this St John Accredited Course.

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

TIME: 5:30 - 8:30pm

WHERE: Liebe Group Office, 17  
Johnston St, Dalwallinu

COST: \$50pp

All profits support your local volunteer  
sub centre.

TO ENROL OR FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, CONTACT  
THE WHEATBELT OFFICE  
ON 9621 1613



## HLTAID011 Provide first Aid

Are your first aid skills up-to-date? Book into a first aid course today, refresh your skills and support your local volunteer sub centre.

DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021

TIME: 8:30am - 4:30pm

WHERE: Liebe Group Office, 17  
Johnston St, Dalwallinu

COST: \$160pp

All profits support your local volunteer  
sub centre.

TO ENROL OR FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, CONTACT  
THE WHEATBELT OFFICE  
ON 9621 1613

# Pinot in the Paddock

FIELD WALK

MONDAY 23RD AUGUST | 3 - 4:30PM  
DRINKS AND NIBBLES TO FOLLOW

Calling all Liebe ladies... get to know what's in the ground at the Liebe Group's Main Trial Site!

This field walk has been designed to build the capacity and confidence of our women members to understand the trials and demonstrations that will be presented on throughout the season.

Liebe Group R&D Committee members will be on hand to guide participants through some of the trials, discussing what is being researched, why it is important, and how the results can be used in our local farming systems.

## REGISTRATIONS

For more information and to register:

PH: 08 9661 1907

Email: [admin@liebegroup.org.au](mailto:admin@liebegroup.org.au)



**WITH** a promising start to the season across most grain growing regions, CBH is busy preparing for the upcoming harvest.

Similar to industry projections, we are currently forecasting the 2021/22 harvest to be well above average.

To help receive the anticipated large harvest, CBH intends to build at least an additional 1 million tonnes of emergency storage throughout the network. We are working closely with relevant local governments on the approval of development applications for the emergency storage.

We are also progressing plans to acquire additional receival equipment, including drive over grids, tarpaulins and testing equipment, which will support frontline teams in receiving the harvest safely and efficiently.

#### Your crop estimates help with planning

It's that time of year where CBH is asking all growers to submit their crop estimates for the 2021/22 harvest.

By letting us know what you have sown and where, you will help us to understand the size of the crop so we can provide resources, such as emergency storage and inloading equipment, where they are needed most.

We encourage you to use Paddock Planner to submit your estimates by commodity and variety for each of your paddocks. By doing so, you will also set yourself up for harvest with the CDF app and understand your profile better with the new My Dashboard reporting tool in LoadNet.

#### Harvest casual positions now open!

Each year, CBH hires approximately 1,800 seasonal workers to help service WA grain growers who deliver grain to our receival sites during harvest.

In preparation for what is expected to be a bumper 2021/22 harvest, our harvest casual applications are now open and CBH is launching a new marketing campaign to encourage more people to apply this harvest.

This year's recruitment process has started a month earlier than usual to encourage people living both regionally and in the Perth metro to apply.

We're encouraging people from all backgrounds and experience levels who want to earn decent money while having fun living and working in beautiful regional WA are encouraged to apply.

If you'd like to apply, head to [www.careers.cbh.com.au](http://www.careers.cbh.com.au)

## HARVEST PREPARATION UNDERWAY AT CBH

Luke Sizer  
Lead - Corporate Affairs  
CBH Group



## ARE 'BIOLOGICALS' ALL FIZZ OR WORTH THE FUSS?

Lisa Curtis  
Assistant Marketing Manager  
Rabobank



**Rabobank**

**ONE** of the major 'mega trends' gripping the globe in 2021 is a shift from petrochemicals, such as agrochemicals, toward life sciences according to senior agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy.

For agriculture, and more specifically farmers, he says one of the forms where this trend is playing out is in the evolution of biological products – an emerging technology utilising microbes to provide nutrients to crops and control weeds and pests.

While biologically-based products are not new, Mr Lefroy says investment in them has skyrocketed in recent years.

“According to Bloomberg, USD 3.81 billion has been raised by advanced biological start-ups from 2012 to 2020, of which USD 2.5 billion has been invested in the past three years alone,” he says. Advancements in computers and genetic engineering have enabled this technology to evolve rapidly.

Mr Lefroy says biologicals can be classified into three types of product.

“The first two are crop-improvement products – biofertilisers, which enhance plants' ability to uptake nutrients, and biostimulants, which stimulate naturally-existing biology,” he says. “While the third are biological control products, biopesticides.”

Mr Lefroy estimates the global biological market is now worth circa USD 9.6 billion (according to 2020 figures), with a “very impressive growth rate” of 10 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the past 10 years.

“For growers looking to utilise biologically-based products, it's important to understand they will not necessarily compete with existing practices; some in fact will be complementary,” he says.

“One of the biggest advantages of biologically-based products is to provide an additional 'mode of action', where some bioherbicides or bioinsecticides may be added to existing agrochemical rotations to combat weeds growing resistant to existing chemical suites.

“Secondarily, especially in high-rainfall environments where fertiliser application rates are greater, biostimulants may be able to improve utilisation of applied fertiliser by the plant and reduce nitrous oxide emissions and leaching.”

And for the albeit comparatively-small number of growers looking to transition to organic, or perhaps regenerative agriculture, Mr Lefroy says an increased number of biological products will make that move easier.

“The relatively unique environment in which Australian growers operate brings its own set of challenges when it comes to using biologicals,” he says.

“First, the intensity of production in Australia is much lower.

“On today’s prices and average yields, the Australia wheat farmer generates about 17 per cent of the revenue of the US corn farmer per hectare, meaning the size of their wallet to spend on inputs is smaller.

“Second, the biggest limitation on local production is plant-available water while in other parts of the globe, where uptake of biologicals has been greater, such as Europe and North America, the challenges can be different.” This, he says, makes some products developed offshore less compelling for local use.



Rabobank senior agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy.

“Finally, the fact that some biological products can perform differently according to the chemical and physical environment adds another layer of complexity to their use in Australia’s variable soil types,” he says. “For example, some biological reactions will only take place within a certain soil pH range.”

So, he asks, is it fizz or worth the fuss?

“There are some strong pros and cons for biological use in Australia,” he says.

“In the short term, we expect adoption will remain low in Australia, with future growth in usage driven by increased incentives and the development of products specific to Australian conditions.”

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank Dalwallinu and Moora branch manager Georgina Day on 08 9661 0900 or subscribe to RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand on your podcast app.

## TAX BITES - A SUMMARY OF THE LATEST TAX CHANGES POST THE BUDGET

Judy Snell  
Director  
RSM



### SELF Education Expenses

- The Government has announced that it will remove the exclusion of the first \$250 of deductions for prescribed courses of education.
- Currently, s. 82A of the ITAA 1936 operates to treat the first \$250 of a prescribed course of education expense as not deductible but since the \$250 reduction can be offset by expenses that are not deductible under s. 8-1, often there is no reduction to the self-education deduction.
- Removing s. 82A will therefore reduce compliance costs.

### Director Identification Number

In June 2020, the Federal Government passed legislation intended to improve the integrity of Australian business registers and create a central Commonwealth Business Registry.

The Modernising Business Registers (MBR) Program was announced as part of the broader Digital Business Plan in the 2020 Federal Budget. The Australian Tax Office (ATO) is working in partnership with ASIC, Treasury, The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Digital Transformation Agency to deliver on the program promise.

A key element of this program was contained in Schedule 2 of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Registries Modernisation and Other Measures) Act 2020 (Cth) (the Act) which introduced the requirement for all Directors to acquire a unique Director Identification Number (DIN).

The Director ID regime is intended to tackle illegal ‘phoenixing’ activities and increase Director accountability and traceability. DIN’s will be recorded in a new database to be administered and operated by the Australian Tax Office and be made available to the public.

Details of the procedures and information requirements to obtain a Director ID were not included in the primary legislation, however a separately issued legislative instrument (“data standard”) was issued for a brief period of public consultation in March 2021. The Australian Business Registry Services (ABRS) is now conducting testing by inviting a controlled number of existing Directors to test the new platform before 31 October, 2021. Once testing is complete, existing Directors will have until 30 November 2022 to obtain a Director ID.

### Who should apply?

The new DIN requirements apply to appointed Directors and acting Directors of Australian corporations and registered foreign companies under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), including companies responsible for managed investment schemes and registered charities. Currently, the DIN requirements do not extend to unincorporated bodies, de facto or shadow Directors or company secretaries.

## PARTNER UPDATES

### Tax Residency Rules

The Government has announced that the individual tax residency rules will be simplified and modernised by replacing the current rules with:

- A primary 'bright line' test — under which a person who is physically present in Australia for 183 days or more in an income year will be an Australian resident for tax purposes;
- Secondary tests depending on a combination of physical presence and measurable, objective criteria — for individuals who do not meet the primary test.

### Temporary full Expensing Extension

The Government has announced that it will extend the temporary full expensing of depreciating assets measure for 12 months until 30 June 2023.

This means that businesses with aggregated annual turnover or total income of up to \$5 billion will be able to deduct the full cost of eligible depreciating assets acquired from 7.30 pm AEDT on 6 October 2020 and first used or installed ready for use by **30 June 2023**.

### Superannuation Guarantee Threshold and Work Test Relief

The Government has announced that it will remove the current \$450 per month minimum income threshold, under which employers do not have to pay superannuation guarantee for the employee.

The effect of this change is that around 300,000 individuals will receive additional superannuation guarantee payments each month.

The Government has announced that it will allow individuals aged 67 to 74 years (inclusive) to make or receive non-concessional contributions (including under the bring-forward rule) or salary sacrifice superannuation contributions without needing to meet the **work test**.

The Prime Minister has announced an extension of the 50 per cent temporary reduction in superannuation minimum drawdown rates for a further year to 30 June 2022.

### ATO - Commissioner's Discretion to retain tax refunds

The Commissioner can now retain a refund where a taxpayer has an outstanding notification required to be given to the Commissioner under any taxation law and which affects or may affect the amount of the refund.

The Commissioner will apply this discretion only to taxpayers identified as engaging in high risk behaviour.

## PARTNER UPDATES

### HOW NEW HERBICIDES MAY AFFECT VARIABLE COST RATIOS

**BACK** in the early 2000s, we were told there was little chance of new pesticides being available in the near future. We had to make do with what was available!

In about 2010, Sakura® became available to farmers in Australia. I still think this is one of the best pre emergent chemicals that has come to market in recent times. It has, no doubt, taken away the title "Treflan (trifluralin) is King", with a lot of trial data supporting this claim. In saying this, it comes with a price. When released, Sakura® was just shy of the \$35/ha mark. This was a shock since the average total annual spend on agricultural chemicals in the early 2000s wasn't much more than this. The average Farmanco client total agricultural chemical spend back in 2002 (when I started my agronomy) was around \$40/ha.

Jump to 2021 and I cannot remember so many products becoming available to farming businesses. Some of these new products are shown in Table 1 with estimated prices. There are some unique groups with these pesticides that will help when rotating chemistry for resistance management. In saying this, rotating chemistry comes at a cost, with some of these products coming in close to the Sakura® price, as shown in Table 1. It is easy now to have total variable pesticide costs reach higher than \$100/ha when using these and other agricultural chemical products. It is important to understand that pesticide spend is only part of your variable costs and can have a large influence on cost ratios when looking at maintaining a profitable rotation and business structure.

Pesticide inputs need to be averaged across all hectares for each enterprise. This allows you to use some of these more costly products, such as Sakura®, Overwatch®, Luximax®, etc. on selected paddocks, as you can average the cost of the input down over the other hectares of your program. A larger pesticide spend in some paddocks may be important to maintain rotational sustainability and provide a financial return for that paddock and your operation. Keep in mind that total pesticide spend does contribute to variable operating costs.

Understanding your variable operating costs is important. One of the primary KPIs within Farmanco's benchmarking: The Profit Series, is aiming to have Operating Variable Costs below 55% to 60% of Gross Farm Income. This ratio can be seen in Table 2. The two ways to keep this percentage lower is to have a profitable commodity (yield and price) and to watch variable costs. Considering all cropping, the Farmanco client average spend across all rainfall zones is \$113/ha on fertiliser and \$79/ha on pesticides (5 year average, including 2019). These make up about 35% of total operating costs. Making sure you have a structured input cost strategy and matching this to production potential is extremely important.

**Mark Lawrence**  
Agronomy Consultant  
Farmanco



Product	Group	\$/ha	Rate/ha
Sakura	K	\$42.13	118g
Luximax	T	\$38.03	500ml
Overwatch	Q	\$37.88	1.25L
Boxer Gold	JK	\$28.75	2.5L
Ultro	E	\$45.60	1.2kg
Voraxor	GG	\$25.50	200ml
Reflex	G	\$24.00	1.5L
Calisto	H	\$14.80	200ml
Terrador	G	\$7.00	20g

**Table 1:** Estimated cost and chemical group of new products, with Sakura and Boxer Gold being in the market for a while now.

There is a balance when looking at variable pesticide costs. The top 25% of Farmanco farmers generally spend more per hectare on pesticides than other farmers. In saying this, high performing farmers will have a good understanding of their input costs and make sure they optimise timing when implementing their pesticide and fertiliser strategy.

I think it is healthy to question where you will get the best bang for your dollar spent. For example, it is okay to ask: if I spend \$5/ha less in one area, will I be better spending that \$5/ha in another area, or not at all? If your average profit is \$150/ha, every unnecessary \$15/ha you spend above planned expenditure will represent 10% of your profit.

Businesses under financial pressure or with strict targets on their cost ratios may have to look at or question other parts of their pesticide spend, due to the increased cost of summer/pre plant spraying. To keep pesticide costs down, it could simply mean revisiting the amount of the more premium pre emergent used and going back to a cheaper pre emergent strategy.

In saying this, you will need to have a good understanding of your income/cost ratios and determine a backup option if weed control is not as good as expected with your change in strategy.

Medium Rainfall Zones 5- Yr Avg	Wheat	Wheat
Yield (t/ha)	2.51	2.51
Price (\$/t)	\$315	\$315
<b>Income (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$791</b>	<b>\$791</b>
<b>Variable Operating Costs</b>		
Wages	\$25	\$25
Fertiliser (based on Yield)	\$126	\$126
Pesticide	\$78	\$120
Fuel & Oil	\$30	\$30
Repairs & Maintenance	\$41	\$41
Seed/Seed Treatment	\$34	\$34
Contract Costs (Freight & Hay Baling)	\$13	\$13
CBH Charges	\$70	\$70
Other Crop Costs	\$16	\$16
<b>Total Variable Costs (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$432</b>	<b>\$474</b>
<b>% of Income</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Total Variable Costs (\$/t)</b>	<b>\$172</b>	<b>\$189</b>
<b>Operating Gross Margin (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$359</b>	<b>\$317</b>
<b>Fixed Operating Costs (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$187</b>	<b>\$187</b>
<b>Total Operating Costs (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$619</b>	<b>\$661</b>
<b>Operating Profit BIT (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$172</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>Finance Costs (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Earnings Before Tax (EBT) (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$137</b>	<b>\$95</b>

**Table 2:** Example of effect extra \$42/ha pesticide spend has on Earnings without an Income increase using the Spend.

## STRESS-FREE EOFY & CLEAN START FOR THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR IN THREE STEPS

**Nanda Aung**  
Marketing Executive  
Agrimaster



**WE** all dread the End of Financial Year as business owners. We hear from two types of people during this time of year:

1. Organised Debbie – she updates her cashbook monthly & works tirelessly with her accountant to get the most out of tax time. Or:
2. Last-minute Martha – she's frustrated and staring at a pile of paperwork whilst promising herself she'll be more organised in the new financial year.

If you find yourself being the latter, we've put together this blog covering the steps you can take to ensure smooth sailing for this EOFY and a fresh start to the new financial year so you can get yourself organised and plan for the year ahead.

### Give yourself a deadline

A deadline creates a sense of urgency & dependency to complete the tasks. There's no room for 'I'll get it done tomorrow'. Dedicate time to gather all the required information to send to your accountant. Without the information, your accountant cannot start the 2020/2021 tax return for you.

If you are not sure what information to gather, ask your accountant for a checklist. Once you have all the information, book an appointment with your accountant.

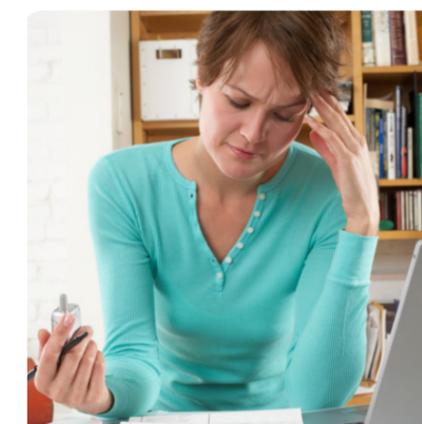
If you are unsure which reports to submit from Agrimaster or need help to generate these reports, follow the EOFY Guide in the Agrimaster Help Centre.

### Tie up the loose ends

Promptly finish the End of Financial Year reporting for the 20/21 tax year. The longer you leave it, the harder it is to remember why you entered certain transactions the way you did.

Before the end of the financial year, review and decide which items you would like to claim tax deductions on; there may be benefits to claiming some expenditure or income within this financial year. Or you might be better off forwarding some items to the next financial year - if they are still relevant to the business.

Once you have reconciled all your accounts and completed your BAS return, we recommend that you carry out a Budget to Actual Comparison Report. This report will provide you with an EOFY snapshot, showing how your business performed and enable you to see potential problems/opportunities.



For more tips on preparing your cashbook and which reports to provide your accountant, visit: [How to Prepare for Your End of Financial Year](#).

### New financial year - New you

Start the new financial year like Organised Debbie. We all know that updating your cashbook is not a once-off obligation that you do specifically for EOFY. So get into the habit of updating your cashbook each week and review against your budget. Bookwork may not be the most exciting task you do, but maintenance is vital and making incremental changes means less stress and more time to focus on the important elements of your farm business.

'New Year - New You' - It's time to reflect & set financial goals to achieve throughout the year. Evaluate your business performance now as you have the most accurate financial data. Then ask yourself these three questions before setting new financial goals:

1. What aspect of your farm business worked well, and you want to keep doing?
2. What part of your farm business didn't work well, and what can you change?
3. What problems/opportunities do you want to address?

Now you have some financial goals for your farm business; it's time to get organised with Agrimaster.

Are you having difficulty utilising the program?

We are here to help - we recommend you dedicate time every month and do some bite-sized learning to become proficient in Agrimaster to get the most out of the program.

Being out of the farm office and on the land is a lot more exciting than sitting behind a screen doing bookwork - but bookwork is an essential piece of your farm business puzzle, and it needs ongoing attention and effort. Without the up to date numbers, you don't have a clear financial position of your farm business. This limits your ability to adapt to change and creates unnecessary stress and reporting time.



### RESEARCH AIMS TO PUT SQUEEZE ON CROP DISEASE

Republished from GRDC Media  
Release dated 22nd June 2021.



THE start to the grain cropping season in Western Australia has been wetter than usual which could mean higher-than-average crop disease levels in the coming months.

Two new research projects aim to increase knowledge and information relating to two key crop diseases – to assist the State's grain growers with disease management and to reduce yield losses.



One of two new GRDC investments into crop disease in WA will aim to provide growers and advisers with information on how to manage spot form net blotch (SFNB) in low rainfall areas. Photo: Luise Sigel

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is investing in the five-year projects, which are being led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The research is addressing Spot form net blotch (SFNB) of barley in low rainfall areas and Sclerotinia stem rot in narrow-leaf lupin crops.

GRDC crop protection manager – west, Georgia Megirian, said considerable research had already been undertaken into Sclerotinia in canola crops.

“However, only limited information is available about the impact and management of Sclerotinia in pulse crops, such as lupin,” Ms Megirian said.

“In recent years, Sclerotinia has become a significant disease of narrow-leaf lupin in WA, driven by factors including the frequency of lupin within crop rotations and seasonal conditions.”

Ms Megirian said observations in the field suggested Sclerotinia behaved differently in pulse crop species compared with how it behaved in canola crops.

She said the new research investment aimed to provide growers and advisers with data about the impact of Sclerotinia in lupin crops, including regionally relevant economic thresholds.

“It will also provide a better understanding of how management practices influence disease development,” Ms Megirian said.

“For example, lupin crop canopies differ to canola canopies, which potentially has implications for the ‘micro-environment’ and subsequent development of disease.

“Therefore, modifying cultural practices such as increasing the crop row spacing, lowering plant densities and altering the sowing time have the potential to provide disease control and reduce reliance on fungicides.”

Ms Megirian said the SFNB of barley investment aimed to provide growers and advisers in WA’s low rainfall areas with information to inform their decision making on how to manage this disease.

“Extensive research has already been conducted into SFNB in the State’s higher rainfall zones, leading to best practice management strategies being developed for these areas,” she said.

“However, in low rainfall zones there is a lack of knowledge about the factors that will cause outbreaks of SFNB and economic losses.

“Hence, growers tend to use a prophylactic approach, such as ‘insurance’ sprays, to cover envisaged risks – which increases production costs and increases the risk of fungicide resistance developing.”

Ms Megirian said the primary source of SFNB was inoculum contained in barley stubble.

“The persistence of stubble is therefore a critical factor influencing the amount of inoculum available to infect barley crops,” she said.

“The current recommendation to growers is there should be two ‘break’ years between barley crops to reduce the risk of SFNB re-infection.

“However, environmental conditions in the low rainfall zone means there may be a reduced risk of stubble decomposition and SFNB spore release infecting subsequent barley crops.”

Ms Megirian said the investment would help industry to understand how modifying cultural practices, such as stubble management or altered sowing time, have the potential to provide some disease control and/or to allow reduced fungicide use.

The SFNB of barley investment will also provide data on the economic and disease impact, including regionally relevant economic thresholds.



GRDC crop protection manager - west, Georgia Megirian, says new research projects will increase understanding of two key crop diseases in WA. Photo: GRDC

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**LIEBE GROUP EVENTS 2021**

Post Seeding Field Walk	Wednesday 21st July	Hyde Property, Dalwallinu
Bitesize Learning: Business Structures	Thursday 29th July	Liebe Group Office
On-farm Animal Health Management	Friday 30th July	1244 Wilder Road, Buntine
Farming HR & Safety Masterclass	Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd August	Liebe Group Office
St John First Aid Course	Wednesday 11th August	Liebe Group Office
Pinot in the Paddock	Monday 23rd August	Hyde Property, Dalwallinu
Spring Field Day	Thursday 9th September	Hyde Property, Dalwallinu

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